



May 25, 2022

Via Email Only, Return Receipt Requested

Stephen Davis, Division Director
Division of Health Care Facility Licensure and Certification
Department of Public Health
67 Forest Street
Marlborough, MA 01752

Judy Bernice, Licensing Unit Manager
Division of Health Care Facility Licensure and Certification
Department of Public Health
67 Forest Street
Marlborough, MA 01752

Dear Mr. Davis and Ms. Bernice:

This letter is submitted on behalf of Henry Heywood Memorial Hospital, Inc (d/b/a Heywood Hospital), located at 242 Green Street, Gardner, MA 01440 regarding its licensed Pediatric sub-unit. Heywood Hospital is a 134-bed general community hospital, which has been serving the needs of Central Massachusetts since 1907. The pediatric sub-unit consists of 7 licensed beds.

The Pediatric sub-unit has not had any admissions since early March, 2020, and has been temporarily closed since April 1, 2021. We have had repeated open RN positions on that unit for the past year and a half. In an effort to keep the unit operational, we had attempted to have our medical surgical RN's orient at UMASS in September-October of 2020 on their pediatric unit as a way to get our nursing staff competent to care for the pediatric patients at Heywood. Unfortunately, once UMASS trained them we then lost at least one of those nurses to UMASS which, again, prevented us from admitting pediatric patients.

Since then and in spite of our recruitment efforts for pediatric skilled nurses, including modifying the medical surgical RN job postings to include pediatric experience, having posted 46 RN positions since January 1, 2021 that included the pediatric RN experience component, offering to have other medical

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surgical nurses orient at UMASS via our agreement with them, and working with our Human Resources department on other recruitment initiatives, we continue to be unsuccessful in recruiting pediatric skilled RN's.

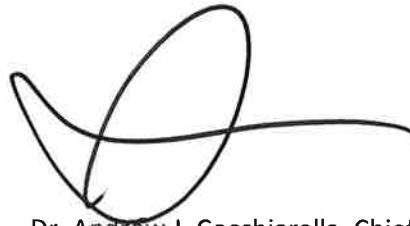
As such, please accept this letter as written notification to the DPH of the Hospital's intention to submit a ninety (90) day notice of the proposed permanent closure of the Pediatric sub-unit. We intend to redesignate the 7 licensed pediatric beds to the general medical-surgical population, resulting in no change in the total number of licensed beds. In accordance with 105 CMR 130.122, the Hospital intends to provide the formal ninety (90) day discontinuation notice on or about June 24, 2022. Please be aware that in addition to this letter, the Hospital is separately notifying each of the required parties under 105 CMR 130.122(B) of its intention to submit the ninety (90) day notice described herein on or about June 24, 2022.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to providing more information in the forthcoming ninety (90) day notice. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,



Winfield S. Brown, BA, MSB, MHA, FACHE
President and CEO, Heywood Healthcare



Dr. Andrew J. Cocchiarella, Chief Medical Officer
Heywood Healthcare

Cc: Walter Mackie
Stephanie Carlson